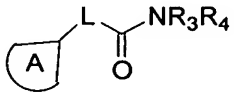
What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating migraine, epilepsy, or bipolar disorder in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I)



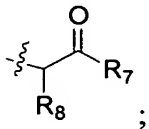
(I),

or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof, wherein

A is cycloalkyl or bridged cycloalkyl;

L is a single bond or alkylene;

R_3 and R_4 are independently hydrogen, alkenyl, alkyl, alkynyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, carboxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, hydroxyalkyl, (NR_5R_6)alkyl, (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl, or



; or

R_3 and R_4 taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocycle wherein the heterocycle is azepanyl, azetidinyl, aziridinyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, or thiomorpholinyl;

R_5 and R_6 are independently hydrogen, alkenyl, alkyl, alkynyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, or hydroxyalkyl;

R_7 is alkoxy, alkyl, hydroxy, or $-NR_5R_6$;

R_8 is alkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, carboxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, hydroxyalkyl, mercaptoalkyl, (NR_5R_6)alkyl, (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl, or $-(CH_2)_nNHC(=NH)NH_2$; and

n is an integer from 1 to 6;

provided that the compound of formula (I) is other than cyclohexanecarboxamide.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein A is cycloalkyl.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is a single bond; and

R_3 and R_4 are hydrogen.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is a single bond; and

R_3 and R_4 are hydrogen.

5. The method according to claim 4 wherein the compound of formula (I) is

(cis) (3R,5S)-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

2,3-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

4-methylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

3-methylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

2-methylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

2,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

3,4-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

4-isopropylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

4-tert-butylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

2,4-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide; or

(cis) (2R,6S)-2,4,6-trimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclopentyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl substituents;

L is a single bond; and

R_3 and R_4 are hydrogen.

7. The method according to claim 6 wherein the compound of formula (I) is cyclopentanecarboxamide.

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen;

R_4 is (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl; and

R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

9. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen;

R_4 is (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl; and

R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

10. The method according to claim 9 wherein the compound of formula (I) is

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-4-methylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-3-methylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

(1S,2R,5S)-N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2,3-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2-methylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-3,4-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-4-isopropylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-4-tert-butylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2,4-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

(cis) (3R,5S)-N-[(1S)-2-amino-1-methyl-2-oxoethyl]-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

(cis) (3R,5S)-N-(3-amino-3-oxopropyl)-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

(cis) (3R,5S)-N-[(1R)-2-amino-1-methyl-2-oxoethyl]-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

(cis) (3R,5S)-N-[(1S)-1-(aminocarbonyl)-2-methylpropyl]-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide; or

(cis) (2R,6S)-N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2,4,6-trimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide.

11. The method according to claim 9 wherein the compound of formula (I) is (cis) (3R,5S)-N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide.

12. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclopentyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen;

R_4 is (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl; and

R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

13. The method according to claim 12 wherein the compound of formula (I) is N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)cyclopentanecarboxamide.

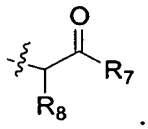
14. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen; and

R_4 is



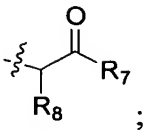
.

15. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen;

R_4 is  ;

R_7 is NR_5R_6;

R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen; and

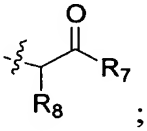
R_8 is heterocycle wherein the heterocycle is imidazolyl.

16. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen;

R_4 is  ;

R_7 is NR_5R_6;

R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen; and

R_8 is heterocycle wherein the heterocycle is imidazolyl.

17. The method according to claim 16 wherein the compound of formula (I) is (cis) (3R,5S)-N-[(1S)-2-amino-1-(1H-imidazol-4-ylmethyl)-2-oxoethyl]-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide.

18. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen; and

R_4 is carboxyalkyl.

19. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen; and

R_4 is carboxyalkyl.

20. The method according to claim 19 wherein the compound of formula (I) is (cis) (2S)-2-({[(3R,5S)-3,5-dimethylcyclohexyl]carbonyl}amino)propanoic acid.

21. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen; and

R_4 is hydroxyalkyl.

22. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen; and

R_4 is hydroxyalkyl.

23. The method according to claim 22 wherein the compound of formula (I) is

(cis) (3R,5S)-N-[(2R)-2-hydroxypropyl]-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

or

(cis) (3R,5S)-N-[(2S)-2-hydroxypropyl]-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide.

24. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclopropyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 cyclopropyl groups;

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen;

R_4 is hydrogen or (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl; and

R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

25. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclopropyl substituted with 2 cyclopropyl groups;

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen;

R_4 is hydrogen or (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl; and

R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

26. The method according to claim 25 wherein the compound of formula (I) is

1,1':1',1"-ter(cyclopropane)-2'-carboxamide; or

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-1,1':1',1"-ter(cyclopropane)-2'-carboxamide.

27. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is alkylene wherein the alkylene is CH_2; and

R_3 and R_4 are hydrogen.

28. The method according to claim 27 wherein the compound of formula (I) is 2-cyclohexylacetamide.

29. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is alkylene wherein the alkylene is CH_2; and

R_3 and R_4 are hydrogen.

30. The method according to claim 29 wherein the compound of formula (I) is

2-(3-methylcyclohexyl)acetamide;

2-(4-methylcyclohexyl)acetamide;

2-(2-methylcyclohexyl)acetamide;

2-(5-isopropyl-2-methylcyclohexyl)acetamide;

2-(4-tert-butylcyclohexyl)acetamide; or

2-(4,4-dimethylcyclohexyl)acetamide.

31. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclopentyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is alkylene wherein the alkylene is CH_2; and

R_3 and R_4 are hydrogen.

32. The method according to claim 31 wherein the compound of formula (I) is 2-cyclopentylacetamide.

33. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is alkylene wherein the alkylene is CH_2;

R_3 is hydrogen;

R_4 is (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl; and

R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

34. The method according to claim 33 wherein the compound of formula (I) is N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2-cyclohexylacetamide.

35. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclohexyl substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is alkylene wherein the alkylene is CH_2;

R_3 is hydrogen;

R_4 is (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl; and

R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

36. The method according to claim 35 wherein the compound of formula (I) is

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2-(3-methylcyclohexyl)acetamide;

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2-(4-methylcyclohexyl)acetamide;

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2-(2-methylcyclohexyl)acetamide;

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2-(5-isopropyl-2-methylcyclohexyl)acetamide;

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2-(4-tert-butylcyclohexyl)acetamide; or

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2-(4,4-dimethylcyclohexyl)acetamide.

37. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is cycloalkyl wherein the cycloalkyl is cyclopentyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 alkyl groups;

L is alkylene wherein the alkylene is CH_2;

R_3 is hydrogen;

R_4 is (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl; and

R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

38. The method according to claim 37 wherein the compound of formula (I) is N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2-cyclopentylacetamide.

39. The method according to claim 1 wherein A is bridged cycloalkyl.

40. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is bridged cycloalkyl wherein the bridged cycloalkyl is adamantane, bicyclo[2.2.1]heptane, or octahydro-2,5-methanopentalene;

L is a single bond; and

R_3 and R_4 are hydrogen.

41. The method according to claim 23 wherein the compound of formula (I) is

bicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2-carboxamide;

1-adamantanecarboxamide; or

hexahydro-2,5-methanopentalene-3a(1H)-carboxamide.

42. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is bridged cycloalkyl wherein the bridged cycloalkyl is adamantane, bicyclo[2.2.1]heptane, or octahydro-2,5-methanopentalene;

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen;

R_4 is (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl; and

R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

43. The method according to claim 42 wherein the compound of formula (I) is

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)bicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2-carboxamide;

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-1-adamantanecarboxamide; or

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)hexahydro-2,5-methanopentalene-3a(1H)-carboxamide.

44. The method according to claim 1 wherein

A is bridged cycloalkyl wherein the bridged cycloalkyl is adamantane, bicyclo[2.2.1]heptane, or octahydro-2,5-methanopentalene;

L is alkylene wherein the alkylene is CH_2;

R_3 is hydrogen;

R_4 is hydrogen or (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl; and

R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

45. The method according to claim 44 wherein the compound of formula (I) is

2-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-ylacetamide;

N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-2-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-2-ylacetamide;

2-(1-adamantyl)acetamide; or

2-(1-adamantyl)-N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)acetamide.

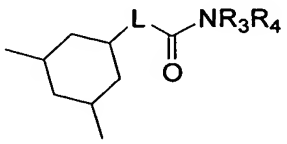
46. A method of treating a psychiatric disorder, pain, or a movement disorder in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I).

47. The method according to claim 46 wherein the compound of formula (I) is (cis) (3R,5S)-N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide.

48. A method of providing neuroprotection in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I).

49. The method according to claim 48 wherein the compound of formula (I) is (cis) (3R,5S)-N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide.

50. A compound of formula (II)



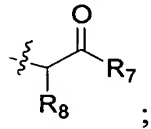
(II),

or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof, wherein

L is a single bond or alkylene;

R_3 is hydrogen or alkyl;

R_4 is alkenyl, alkyl, alkynyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, carboxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, hydroxyalkyl, (NR_5R_6)alkyl, (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl, or



; or

R_3 and R_4 taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocycle wherein the heterocycle is azepanyl, azetidinyl, aziridinyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, or thiomorpholinyl;

R_5 and R_6 are independently hydrogen, alkenyl, alkyl, alkynyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, or hydroxyalkyl;

R_7 is alkoxy, alkyl, hydroxy, or $-NR_5R_6$;

R_8 is alkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, carboxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, hydroxyalkyl, mercaptoalkyl, (NR_5R_6)alkyl, (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl, or $-(CH_2)_nNHC(=NH)NH_2$; and

n is an integer from 1 to 6.

51. The compound according to claim 50 wherein

R_3 is hydrogen; and

R_4 is (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl.

52. The compound according to claim 50 wherein

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen;

R_4 is (NR_5R_6)carbonylalkyl; and

R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

53. The compound according to claim 52 wherein the compound of formula (II) is

(cis) (3R,5S)-N-[(1S)-2-amino-1-methyl-2-oxoethyl]-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

(cis) (3R,5S)-N-(3-amino-3-oxopropyl)-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide;

(cis) (3R,5S)-N-[(1R)-2-amino-1-methyl-2-oxoethyl]-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide; or

(cis) (3R,5S)-N-[(1S)-1-(aminocarbonyl)-2-methylpropyl]-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide.

54. The compound according to claim 52 wherein the compound of formula (II) is (cis) (3R,5S)-N-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl)-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide.

55. The compound according to claim 50 wherein

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen; and

R_4 is carboxyalkyl.

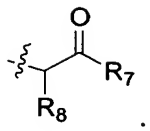
56. The compound according to claim 55 wherein the compound of formula (II) is (cis) (2S)-2-({[(3R,5S)-3,5-dimethylcyclohexyl]carbonyl}amino)propanoic acid.

57. The compound according to claim 50 wherein

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen; and

R_4 is

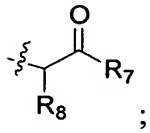


58. The compound according to claim 50 wherein

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen;

R_4 is



;

R_7 is $-NR_5R_6$;

R_5 and R_6 are independently hydrogen or alkyl; and

R_8 is heterocycle wherein the heterocycle is imidazolyl.

59. The compound according to claim 58 wherein the compound of formula (II) is (cis) (3R,5S)-N-[(1S)-2-amino-1-(1H-imidazol-4-ylmethyl)-2-oxoethyl]-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide.

60. The compound according to claim 50 wherein

L is a single bond;

R_3 is hydrogen; and

R_4 is hydroxyalkyl.

61. The compound according to claim 60 wherein the compound of formula (II) is (cis) (3R,5S)-N-[(2R)-2-hydroxypropyl]-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide; or (cis) (3R,5S)-N-[(2S)-2-hydroxypropyl]-3,5-dimethylcyclohexanecarboxamide.

62. A method of treating neuropathic and inflammatory pain in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I).